

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) Method for the detection of an analyte in a sample, comprising the steps:

- (a) preparing a solid phase on which a preformed conjugate of a poly(C₂-C₃)-alkylene oxide and an analyte-specific reactant that interacts with the analyte has been applied such that the preformed conjugate is immobilized in a test area,
- (b) incubating the sample with the solid phase and a detection reagent that provides a detectable indication of the presence or/and amount of the analyte, such that any analyte in the sample binds to the reactant bound to the solid phase and
- (c) detecting the presence or/and the amount of the analyte in the sample with the detectable indication,

wherein the solid phase is coated with a first member of a high affinity binding pair and said preformed conjugate is immobilized via said high affinity binding pair, wherein said analyte specific reactant in said preformed conjugate is conjugated with a second

member of said high affinity binding pair prior to application of said preformed conjugate to said solid phase.

Claims 15-60 (Canceled).

61. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~60~~ 14, wherein an analyte-specific modified solid phase reactant selected from analyte-specific antibodies, antigens, nucleic acids, nucleic acid analogues and lectins is used.

62. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 14 wherein unspecific binding to the solid phase is reduced.

63. (Previously Presented) Method for detection of any analyte in a sample, comprising the steps:

- (a) forming a conjugate of a poly(C₂-C₃)- alkylene oxide and an analyte-specific reactant that interacts with the analyte, then
- (b) preparing a solid phase by applying thereto the conjugate of the poly(C₂-C₃)- alkylene oxide and the analyte-specific reactant that interacts with the analyte such that the conjugate is immobilized,

- (c) incubating the sample with the solid phase and a detection reagent that provides a detectable indication of the presence or/and amount of the analyte, such that any analyte in the sample binds to the reactant bound to the solid phase and
- (d) detecting the presence or/and the amount of the analyte in the sample with the detectable indication.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase is immobilized by direct adsorptive binding or by covalent coupling or by coupling via high affinity binding pairs.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase is immobilized by coupling via high affinity binding pairs.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase is first coated with a first partner of a high affinity binding pair and then a conjugate of the modified solid phase reactant with the second partner of the binding pair is immobilized.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the high affinity binding pair is selected from the group consisting of streptavidin, avidin/biotin, desthiobiotin, iminobiotin, aminobiotin, antidigoxigenin antibody/digoxigenin, and antiluorescein antibody/luorescein.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase has immobilized thereon the modified analyte specific solid phase reactant which is incubated with a further alkylene oxide modified binding molecule which acts as a blocker.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the blocker comprises non-analyte specific molecules.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the non-analyte specific molecules are proteins or polysaccharides.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the blocker binds to the solid phase by adsorptive or covalent interactions.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the blocker binds to the solid phase by coupling via high affinity binding pairs.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein an alkylene oxide modified analyte specific reactant is in combination with an alkylene oxide modified blocker.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase is non-porous.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein an analyte specific region is immobilized on a spatially limited test area.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the test area is a miniature test area having a diameter of 10 μm to 2 mm.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the solid phase comprises several test areas containing different analyte-specific solid phase reactants.